

REPORT OF AGENT IN UTAH.

REPORT OF UINTAH AND OURAY AGENCY.

UINTAH AND OURAY AGENCY,

White Rocks, Utah, August 9, 1894.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herein the annual report referring to history of work, progress, and events pertaining to this agency for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1894, and as required by section 203, regulations of 1894.

In obedience to Order No. 137, War Department, series 1893, and instructions from the Honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, I assumed charge of the agency on the 24th day of July, 1893, relieving citizen Robert Waugh.

I regret that the condition of affairs of the agency was not found to contain so much for satisfaction and promise as had been represented by my predecessor, and that, although much effort has been expended upon these Indians in the past year, they are still far from "the high road to prosperity and civilization."

The agency comprises the supervision of affairs pertaining to the Uintahs, White Rivers, and Uncompahgres of the confederated bands of Ute Indians. The Uintahs and White Rivers are located on the Uintah Reservation, with agency headquarters at White Rocks, near base of Uintah Mountains, while the Uncompahgres are located on what is known as the Uncompahgre Reservation, with headquarters of the agency, which is known as Ouray, and a subagency of Uintah, at Ouray, 33 miles south from White Rocks. During the past year these agency headquarters have been provided with communication by telephone, the line running from White Rocks through Fort Duchesne, thence to Ouray Indian boarding school (4 miles below Duchesne) and on to the agency at Ouray.

The Uintahs and White Rivers occupy a large extent of territory, some of them living as far as 60 miles from White Rocks; they seem, however, inclined to come in and locate nearer the agency. Old Tabby, the principal chief of the Uintahs, now probably a hundred years old, lives far away on the Upper Duchesne. He clings to his home there, but he can not last long, and when he is gone all of his people will want to come in and take lands nearer the agency.

The Indians of the Uintah Reservation, although well disposed and peaceable, have never been inclined, as a whole, to rapid advancement in ways of civilization, and have appeared to look upon efforts made in their behalf with distrust and as endangering their rights in their reservation. They are slow to appreciate school privileges that have been provided for them, and cling to the idea that sending children to school is a favor conferred upon the agent, for which they should receive some separate reward or favor. This is gradually being overcome, I think, and the most of those whose children have been in the school the past year realize that they have been benefited thereby.

The school at this agency has been conducted under the superintendence of I. S. Binford, a person thoroughly devoted to his duties, and who has worked hard to keep the pupils in place and for the general success of the enterprise. The enrollment of pupils has been more than 80, while 10 of this number have been transferred to the school at Grand Junction, Colo. The average attendance for the school year has been '57. This number has been sufficient to overcrowd the school buildings and dormitories, which has naturally tended toward laxity in discipline.

An administration building is now under construction, with apartments for school employes. When this is completed the dormitory accommodation for pupils will have been increased, and it is hoped another year will bring about large increase of average attendance and a better record for the school generally.

The Indians of the Uintah Reservation have this year doubled the amount of their farming acreage, and have shown considerable interest in the work of cultivating crops. A few have really good farms and are well established in permanent abiding places. The promise for crops, while not all that could be desired, is, on the whole, quite encouraging, and it is hoped that the results in farming obtained by the industrious of the tribe will stimulate others to efforts in this direction another year. Nearly all of these Indians are desirous of being provided with houses for shelter, and are being helped in constructing them as fast as possible.

The Uncompahgres are the most intellectual Indians I have met. They esteem themselves as the remnant of a once powerful tribe, and view their present condition as resulting from physical afflictions and other unavoidable necessities, in which they are bound to abide submissively and without complaint. It has been found very hard work to arouse them from apathy and convince them that we are sincere in our efforts for improving their welfare. This has been particularly illustrated in our experience in starting the school for their children, which could not have been successfully accomplished except through the combined effort of every employé of the agency, which it has received.

The school is located 4 miles below Fort Duchesne, on the bank of the Uintah River, and just above its confluence with the waters of the Duchesne. The accommodations are comprised in three two-story brick structures, one designed exclusively for recitation and school exercises, one for dormitory for boys and apartments for male employés, the other as dormitory for girls, and with rooms for female employés. On the ground floor in this building are located kitchen and dining room, laundry, bath, and sitting rooms for the entire school.

Plans for a building to be used as laundry have been submitted, which, if approved by the Department and construction authorized, will greatly relieve the situation. The work of constructing a residence for school physician, a barn for animals pertaining to the schools, a storehouse and workshop combined, and a gymnasium for the boys is now going on. These improvements will be completed by the 15th of September. Plans are being prepared for a water system, which will be indispensable to safety against fire, as well as for convenience and the sanitary welfare of the school.

As a result of the efforts made to get the children into this school, 48 have been enrolled during the school year, with an average attendance of 42 during the last month of the school year. Considering the apathy exhibited by the men and the determined opposition manifested by the squaws concerning the schools, this is considered as remarkable success. The progress that was made in teaching these pupils in the schoolroom has been wonderful.

The grounds about the school buildings have been leveled and provided with irrigating ditches; trees and grass have been planted successfully and the place has an attractive appearance; 30 acres of land adjoining the school grounds have been fenced and cultivated as a field this year, also 4 acres for garden purposes. The 30-acre lot was seeded with oats and alfalfa. The oats were cut before ripening for use as fodder for animals and to give better chance for the alfalfa, which promises well, and another year this field, if properly tended, will provide all the hay that will be required for as many animals as it may be desirable for the school to keep. The work of fencing and cultivating the land has been done principally by Industrial Teacher Rube and the boys of the school. Teacher Walker has been a hard worker in assisting Mr. Rube, as well as in his schoolroom, and well merits this mention.

The Uncompahgres when once they have adopted an idea are determinedly devoted to its support, and everything looks as if the success of Ouray Indian boarding school has been secured.

Heretofore the Uncompahgres have done but very little in way of farming; have never been given much encouraging assistance in this direction. Their agent has lived at White Rocks, seldom visiting them, and outside of issuing them rations, annuity goods, and funds, manifested but little interest in their welfare, and has really been of but little advantage to them. A clerk in charge with limited authority, even with the best of disposition, could do but little for them.

During the past year very many of these Indians have located upon the lands that have been provided with irrigating ditches taken from the Du Chesne and Uintah rivers and have shown a good disposition to work in establishing themselves in permanent locations and shaping places for their homes. Those that have been assisted in building rough houses provided with windows and doors have in every instance shown grateful appreciation of what has been done for them. A few of these Indians have been fortunate in their start, and will do well the present year. These Indians, like the Uintahs, are scattered over a large extent of territory, some living 60 miles from the agency headquarters. All seem much interested in the movements of those that have been started in farming, and it is believed that they will be easily induced to come in and locate themselves on the lands that are being gotten ready for them.

The weather in this section was very cold the past winter. For sixty days in suc-

cession the thermometer registered an average of 6° below zero. This extreme cold made it impossible to do any work on the ditches or farms of either reservation. The horse stock belonging to the Indians suffered very much, and when spring opened these animals had been reduced by effects of cold and starvation, so that they were incapable of much service; this retarded progress in starting spring work. But for these unfavorable conditions the results of farm work, it is believed, would have been all that was anticipated or hoped for.

The Indians of the Uintah and Ouray Agency, like most other tribes, have a good number among them who will drink whisky whenever they can get it. The opportunities for getting it from the miserable white venders that have located near them have been abundant, and this fact has been the occasion of no little annoyance. The civil authorities of Uintah County, county seat at Vernal, Utah, license these venders with the full knowledge that they can only hope to live in the business by selling to Indians, and these officials during the past year appear to have been perfectly reckless with regard to the results that might be expected to follow this traffic, and only interested in obtaining a good sum of license money for the benefit of the county treasury.

In consideration that during the year numerous communications have been forwarded reporting upon progress of affairs of the agency and of the statistical and census reports inclosed herewith, it is believed all the information required by the Commissioner has been furnished.

I desire to acknowledge that I am indebted to all the employés that are retained in position for faithful and earnest support in my efforts in behalf of these Indians, and especially am I indebted to Lieut. L. M. Koehler, Ninth Cavalry, for very valuable aid in running lines for irrigating ditches and much other practical assistance, all of which has been given voluntarily and apparently from a proper regard for the public service, as well as a disposition to render personal favor to myself, and to conclude by acknowledging my appreciation of the patience, confidence, and encouragement displayed for me by the Department.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES F. RANDLETT,

Major, U. S. Army, Acting U. S. Indian Agent.

THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF OURAY SCHOOL.

OURAY SCHOOL, *June 30, 1894.*

SIR: In compliance with paragraph 42, Rules for Indian Schools, I have the honor to submit this my second annual report:

At the opening of the school, September 4, 1893, 12 pupils were present. This number increased to 46 during the year, 44 being present during the last month.

During the first month of the year the work in the schoolroom devolved on the superintendent entirely. October 7 a teacher was appointed, and on February 5 another was added. As, with one exception, none of these children had ever been in school to exceed two months, the work here, as in other departments, has been exceedingly difficult. The children have made good progress, though it has been especially difficult to induce them to use English in conversation. Yet fair work has been done in this line.

The girls have been regularly detailed to work in the kitchen, laundry, and sewing room and to assist the matron in other housework. These details have been changed weekly, so that all the girls have had the same amount of work in each department. All the work in the kitchen and dining room has been done with the assistance of the girls. They have done good work here. On a few occasions, when the work was especially heavy, it has been necessary to detail boys to assist in the laundry; aside from this, all the work has been done with the assistance of the girls, and they have usually done the work well.

In the sewing room, in addition to the mending, the girls have assisted in making their own clothes and underclothes for the boys, as well as the other necessary sewing for the school.

Under the matron's direction the girls have cared for their own dormitories, and the halls, play room, and bathroom in their own building. The boys have been trained to care for their own dormitories and building.

The boys have assisted in all the outdoor work, sawing wood, hauling water, caring for stock, irrigating and cultivating the field and garden.

A field of about 30 acres has been fenced and sowed in oats and alfalfa. The oats promise a fair yield, and it is expected that the alfalfa will furnish abundance of hay after the present year. The garden has been well watered and cared for, but being on new land does not promise an abundant yield.

About 100 shade trees have been planted, nearly all living and growing nicely. These add much to the appearance of the premises.

The barn, gymnasium, shop, and storeroom, now under contract, will be much needed improvements. The school is still in need of suitable bathrooms, laundry, and some means of piping water into the buildings. During the cold weather of the past winter all the water had to be hauled from the river, and to avoid freezing it was necessary to keep the barrels in the halls. The slop and dirt caused by the daily filling of these barrels were the source of much discomfort, as well as extra labor.

Very respectfully,

LEWIS D. WATERS,
Superintendent.

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN SCHOOLS,
Through Maj. JAS. F. RANDLETT, U. S. Army,
Acting U. S. Indian Agent.

to immediate action in settling upon lands allotted to them, and making permanent homes for themselves.

The situation does not promise that the work assigned the commissioners will be speedily accomplished. The purpose of civilization, supposed to be embodied in the law providing for the settlement of the Indians in permanent homes, is the first thing to be considered. This being true, it appears plainly to be the duty of all persons that have the interest of the Government and of the Indians at heart to entreat Congress, if necessary, to repeal the clause in the allotment act which provides that these Indians shall be compelled to pay \$1.25 per acre for lands they are forced to accept in lieu of lands promised to them in the treaty stipulations under which they gave up their holdings in Colorado. Until this provision is repealed there will be but little to encourage the hope that the act of August 15, 1894, will be happily or profitably enforced.

Up to a very recent date, to its shame it must be said, the Christian church has paid no attention to its duty in the matter of sending gospel missionaries to these Indians. Bishop Leonard, of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Utah and Nevada, during the past year has visited the agency twice, and has succeeded in raising among his people in the East a sufficient sum of money for the erection of a chapel, which will be located close to the Uncompahgre boarding school. The work upon this building has been commenced, and will be pushed rapidly to completion. It is hoped that those who have encouraged the undertaking of this enterprise will not neglect or desert it, but that means will be contributed for providing a home for a missionary and for his physical support. There is no doubt that a faithful, energetic Christian worker can accomplish much toward civilizing and enlightening these Indians. The field is a broad one. Outside of the Mormon establishment, there is not a Christian church or place of public worship within a radius of 100 miles from the agency.

All the harassing and vexatious annoyances imaginable surround and interfere with the arrangements of the agent and his employees made for the benefit of these Indians. Close to the reservation lines are located vicious white men and women with no visible means of existence except through gambling, whisky selling, and prostitution. These people supply whisky to the Indians, and go so far as to send peddlers within the lines of the reservation by stealth to retail the stuff by the drink. During the past year numerous instances have occurred of white men stealing horses and cattle from the Indians and running them off the reservation. The civil authorities appear to view these crimes with indifference. A portion of the good people of the surrounding country seem to be awakening to a sense of responsibility in the matter and to a dread of the evils to society in general that are bound to follow.

The criminals above referred to communicate to the Indians every newspaper article that is calculated to incite their distrust and lead them to wrong conclusions with regard to the policy of the Government in dealing with them and with the Indians of other tribes. During the late affair with the Bannacks at Jacksons Hole these Indians were worked into much anxiety from the false reports thus circulated "that a portion of their own people were involved." There was, however, no disposition to move to the assistance of the Bannacks.

Nine years of observation with these Indians justifies an announcement of the conclusion that whatever hereafter of trouble is experienced by the authorities of the Government from them the cause will be traced to acts of greed and wanton injustice committed against them by white men bent upon their destruction without regard to consequences. Such trouble can only be avoided by maintaining the garrison of Fort Duchesne for preservation of peace until the Indians are properly located upon their lands in severalty and placed in a condition to become self-supporting citizens.

In concluding this report, permission is asked to add testimony favoring reservation boarding schools for Indian children and to recommend liberal allowances for their support. Indians of this reservation who have children in the schools have been improved as a rule in a marked degree by the influence of the school operating through the child. The children of these schools are taught practically outside of the schoolroom recitations. Daily details are made from the boys' roster for half a day to work at cutting wood or upon the farm. They are given the care and keeping of tools, care of stabled animals, milk the school cows, feed the pigs and fowls. The girls are in the same manner taught to cook, wash, iron, and mend, also to make all their own garments. It has often occurred that girls having been permitted to take yeast to their homes on Saturdays and their parents have returned with them on Monday morning manifesting pride in bringing samples of bread made by the child at the tepee. In every single instance of parents having children in school they are giving me no rest until they are provided with a house with shingle roof and brick chimney to live in. The hope of civilizing these Utes centers in the reservation schools.